

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 016903

O P 091155 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6368

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECSTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 1147/1

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS KU

SUBJ: KUWAITI REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE

REF: KUWAIT 1103

SUMMARY: LATEST KUWAITI- IRAQI TALKS ENDED WITH COMPLETE
STALEMATE. GOK BELIEVES IRAQIS INTEND OCCUPY TOW ISLANDS
OF WARBA AND BUBIYAN, AND MAYBE SOON. PRIME MINISTER JABER
CONSIDERS CONTINGENCY PLANNING WITH FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS WISE
MOVE BUT ALSO WANTS AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATELY TO DEFEND AGAINST

IRAQI MOVE ON ISLANDS AND FOR AIR COVER OF KUWAIT.

ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS TO CONVEY TO GOK REGARDING USG
REACTION TO KUWAITI- IRAQI DISPUTE, USGUIDANCE TO GOK ON
CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND US WILLINGNESS SELL AIRCRAFT
IMMEDIATELY TO KUWAIT. END SUMMARY

1. UNDERSEC RASHID CALLED ME TO FONMIN THIS MORNING, APRIL 9.
SAID HE HAD LONG SESSION WITH PRIME MINISTER JABER AL- AHMAD
TO WHOM HE HAD CONVEYED MY PERSONAL VIEWS ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING
AND AIR COVER. PRIME MINISTER HAD ASKED TASHID PASS FOLLOWING
VIEWS AND QUESTIONS TO ME:

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A. GOK DOUBTS IRAQIS CONTEMPLATING ATTACK ON KUWAIT PROPER AT THIS TIME, BUT GOK EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT IRAQI INTENTIONS OCCUPY ISLANDS OF WARBA AND BUBIYAN. SUBJECT OF ISLANDS WAS DISCUSSED FRANKLY BETWEEN FONMIN SABAH AND IRAQI FONMIN DURING LATTER'S VISIT HERE OVER WEEKEND. IRAQIS SAID THEYLFEARED IRANJAV IANS MIGHT OCCUPY ISLANDS AND SUGGESTED JOINT DEFENSE OF THEM WITH KUWAIT. KUWAITIS SAID IDEA OF IRANIAN OCCUPATION WAS NON-SENSE AND REJECTED OUTRIGHT SUGGESTION OF JOINT DEFENSE. GOK BELIEVES MOMENT OF TRUTH REGARDING ISLANDS COULD COME ANYTIME.

B. PRIME MINISTER AGREES IT WISE TO DEVELOP CONTINGENCY PLANNING. HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW IT SHOULD WORK. HE INCLINED BELIEVE JORDAN A BIT TOO FAR AWAY TO COME IN TIME, IF KUWAIT HAD NO ADVANCE WARNING OF IRAQI MILITARY TAKE- OVER. PM THINKS IRAN IN BETTER POSITION, HAS MORE AIR POWER AND MORE INCENTIVE MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO BLOCK IRAQI MOVE. REGARDLESS OF WHO IT IS THAT COMES TO HELP KUWAIT IF IRAQI ATTACK (JORDAN, IRANJN SAUDI ARABIA, OR ALL THREE), HOW WOULD USG GO ABOUT ARRANGING FOR

SUCH ASSISTANCE? HOW WOULD IT WORK?

C. PRIME MINISTER DOES NOT BELIEVE CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS WITH NEIGHBORS IS ENOUGH. HE WANTS BUY OR RENT APPROPRIATE AIRCRAFT TO DEFEND ISLANDS AND PROVIDE AIR COVER FOR KUWAIT PROPER IMMEDIATELY. GOK WILL ARRANGE PROBLEM OF PILOTS TO FLY THEM.

D. PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE USG ASSESSMENT OF FOLLOWING:

(1) IRAQI INTENTIONS, IMMEDIATE AND LONG- RANGE IN GULF.

(2) WHAT ARE RUSSIAN ROLE AND INTENTIONS IN GULF? DOES US BELIEVE THERE ARE RUSSIAN- IRAQI PLANS FOR GULF AND IF SO WHAT DO THEY MEAN FOR KUWAIT AND OTHER STATES IN GULF?

(3) WHAT IS USG REACTION TO KUWAITI- IRAQI DISPUTE? IF IRAQIS TAKE ISLANDS, IRAQIS WILL BE WITH STONE'S THROW OF KUWAIT BY ITSELF, HEART OF KUWAIT. WOULD THIS FACT BE OF CONCERN TO USG?

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S E C R E T SECSTION 2 OF 2 KUWAIT 1147/2

2. I TOLD RASHID I WOULD CONVEY ALL OF FOREGOING FROM PM PROMLTLY TT WASHINGTON AND SEEK SOME ANSWERS. I ADDED I WAS SURE PRIME MINISTER AWARE GULF AREA OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE TO US AND THAT USG LOOKED TO GULF STATES, PARTICULARLY IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA, TO COOPERATE IN PRESERVING SECURITY OF GULF REGION.

3. COMMENT: I THINK NOW IS THE TIME TO GIVE KUWAITIS FACTS OF LIFE AS WE SEE THEM WHILE AT SAME TIME ASSISTING THEM WITH THEIR MILITARY WORRIES (AND MAKING SOME GOOD SALES FOR OURSELVES). RECOMMEND I BE INSTRUCTED TO SEE PRIME MINISTER (WHOM I HAVE ABOIDED RECENTLY IN ORDER NOT GIVE JUMPY GOK UNWARRANTED IMPRESSION OF EXTENT OUR CONCERN WITH PRESENT SITUATION) OR FONMIN SABAH AND CONVEY USG RESPONSES ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. GULF AREA IS ONE OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE TO UNITED STATES (SISCO' S WORKS). IT IS US POLICY TO ENCOURAGE GULF STATES TO EXPAND REGIONAL COOPERATION WHICH INCLUDES SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AMONG THEMSELVES.

B. GOK SHOULD GO DIRECTLY TO IRANIANS, SAUDIS AND JORDANIANS TO ARRANGE CONTINGENCY ACTIONS. USG ENCOURAGES SUCH CONTACTS BUT OF COURSE DOES NOT WISH TO BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED; NOR WOULD IT BE IN INTEREST KUWAIT AND ITS FRIENDS FOR USG TO DO SO. USG WILLING ASSIST GOK IN COMMUNICATING WITH ITS EMBASSIES EXPEDIOUSLY,
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IF REQUIRED.

C. AS PM KNOWS US MILITARY TEAM ARGLVING THIS WEEK, PREPARED TO DISCUSS AND PROCESS WIDE RANGE OF KUWAITI MILITARY NEEDS.

D. USG RESPONSE TO IMMEDIATE QUESTION OF AIRCRAFT FOR KUWAIT.
IS IT CONCEIVABLE WE COULD PULL A FEW F-5 S OFF THE LINE FOR
KUWAIT FOR QUICK DELIVERY AND PROMISE REST AT LATER DATE WHEN
REGULAR F-5 PROGRAM CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH GOK; FAILING F-5 S,
DO WE HAVE AIRCRAFT FOR IMMEDIATE SALE THAT WOULD PROVIDE KUWAIT
WITH CREDIBLE TEMPORARY AIR COVER OVER KUWAIT AND ISLANDS?

E. LWOULD BE USE FULL SOOUSDZER LATER PROVIDE PRIME MINISTER
WITH USG ASSESSMENT OF RUSSIAN AND IRAQI INTENTIONS IN GULF.

4. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
STOLTZFUS

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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TAGS: MASS, KU
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TEHRAN
USCINCEUR
WASHDC

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